

BARRE GAZETTE

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Supt. Muir updates committee on school opening

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – Superintendent Sheila Muir gave an update on the opening of school to the Quabbin Regional School District Committee last Thursday. Supt. Muir said, “[School] opening went well, but was incredibly challenging.”

She said she was proud of the team. Some of the NJROTC Cadets rode on the elementary school buses for the first three days of school to help children find their seats and remind them to wear masks and sanitize their hands.

She said Jessica Bennett, executive secretary, acted as “command central.” Stacy Skerry, transportation coordinator, had bus schedule challenges with every change. She also thanked plants and facilities, the school nurses and food service. She said her office received numerous emails from parents and community members thanking the district.

Several members of the school team discussed various issues involving school reopening. Oakham/New Braintree principal, Patricia Worthington, said arrival and dismissal went well and was improving daily. She said police officers helped with the arrival and dismissal.

Worthington said specials this year were 30 minutes long and held outside weather permitting. They would be held inside during inclement weather. She said 88% of Oakham and New Braintree students are participating in face-to-face learning.

Hubbardston Center School principal, Jill Peterson, said children were happy to be back in school and it was a huge benefit to children. She said children adjusted beautifully and she had no behavioral problems or all students wore masks.

Christopher Carlson, co-principal at Ruggles Lane School, said second through fifth grade students ate outside weather permitting. Kindergarten and first grade students ate in the cafeteria and go outside later. Carlson said students were good about maintaining social distance during mask breaks.

Hardwick Elementary School principal, Shelly St. George, said before school started she was nervous how it would work out. She said it was a positive start and teachers reviewed protocols with students at the start of school such as mask breaks and distance and direction marks in the hallways.

Gregory Devine, principal of Quabbin Regional Middle High School, said it was an interesting opening and he “never had something so complex.” He said students would “start in earnest next week.” Devine said, “This is really a team effort and a lot of places are not doing what we are doing.”

Adam Couturier said he got a lot of calls from parents and grandparents regarding remote learning. He said it was a huge learning curve for educators, principals, students and families. He said there were how to videos on YouTube. One

See QRSD, page 5

Lions Club helps with Nornay Park light installation



Turley Publications Courtesy Photos

Shown are three of the five lamp posts installed at Nornay Park.

SOUTH BARRE – The South Barre Common Committee would like thank Lions Club volunteers, John Sprague, Joseph Petracone, Sherri and Salvatore Imperato, Eva Champion, Ron Jacobs, Ray Beaudoin, Steve Clark, Michelle Biron and Kevagh Williamsson for their help in the installation of five lamp poles at Nornay Park.

The committee wanted to complete this project for more than five years. This is not the

first time that the Lions Club has stepped up to assist us at Nornay Park and for that the committee is very thankful. The volunteers furnished all of the labor for stripping, sanding and painting of the lamp poles. They also installed the sauna tubes, filled them with concrete and provided the labor and skills to lay the electrical conduit for the project.

A very special thank you to John Sprague who provided the electrical expertise neces-

sary to meet town codes. Also a thank you to Ron Jacobs and Sal Imperato, who spruced up the lamp poles and retro-fitted them with the latest LED technology.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all summer concerts scheduled at Nornay Park had to be cancelled this year. The funds that were saved were re-allocated for supplies for the lamp post project. Thanks to R.N. Glidden for a great job in their excavation and landscaping work and



One of the lamp posts lights the Welcome to South Barre sign.

to Graves Concrete for working within the committee's budget. This project would not have been possible without the sweat equity and efforts of the Barre Lions Club.

An interesting footnote to this project is that the five lamp posts installed in Nornay Park, used to light up the Barre Town Common. They have been sitting in storage since the Barre

See NORNAY PARK, page 5

Schools may be included in Green Communities

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – Kelly Brown met with selectmen Tuesday night to discuss expanding the Green Communities energy reduction plan to the Ruggles Lane Elementary School.

Brown said she met with the school superintendent and Clare Barnes, plants and facilities manager about adding the elementary school and possibly the middle/high school as it is in Barre. The town would be eligible for up to \$200,000. Brown said the town has been in the Green Communities program for nine years. Brown said National Grid provided free energy audits. Selectman Matthew Urban inquired about adding the school district's administrative building as well.

School update

Superintendent Sheila Muir gave selectmen an update on the first day of school, Sept. 8. She said the schools received great support from Barre Police and the traffic pattern went well. Only kindergarten and fifth grade attended Ruggles Lane School and sixth, ninth and 11th grade attended at the Quabbin Middle High School. Each day different grades would be added. She also said that students were glad to be back in school and teachers and principals were glad to interact with the students.

Selectman Dylan Clark asked

See BARRE, page 6

Hardwick trails home to 13th annual mountain bike race



Turley Publications Photos Courtesy of Brian White

The mountain bike trails in Hardwick offer excitement to cyclists of all ages and abilities.

By Paula Ouimette
Correspondent

HARDWICK – For Hardwick residents and people near and far, one particular weekend in August marks an exciting time of year. Nearing the end of summer and the approach of the school year, the Hardwick Community Fair is the pinnacle of small town, wholesome family fun. This would have been the 258th annual fair, but COVID-19 precautions and social gathering regulations made any sort of in-person celebration impossible. Although it has been cancelled in the past due to economic depression and war, the year 2020 marked the

See BIKE RACE, page 9



Brian White of Hardwick enjoys one of the more challenging aspects of the Mountain Bike Race course.

Voters gave nod to all but one warrant article

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

NEW BRAINTREE – Voters in New Braintree had to wait a little over 15 minutes to reach a quorum.

Moderator Jeffrey Howland delayed the Annual Town Meeting Monday night, as the group was four shy of the 50-voter quorum.

Voters approved the first two routine articles: to accept the results of the Annual Town Election held June 13 and to choose all town officers not elect by ballot or appointed, which included measurer of lumber, regional ACO and extension service representative.

At the request of the board of selectmen, voters passed over article 3 to hear reports of the several town officers and committees as there was a lack of reports due to COVID-19. Voters approved a budget of \$2,428,864, Article 4, by voting section by section. The town approved a school assessment that included \$60,028 for Pathfinder Vocational, \$1,313,432 for Quabbin Regional, \$10,206 QRSD debt and interest, \$57,300 for out of district tuition and \$15,000 for out of district transportation. Other large expenditures were: \$298,000 for highway expense, \$256,829 for protection of persons/property, \$161,178 general government.

Article 5 at \$57,305 fixed the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of Massachusetts General Law. Voters approved Articles 6 through 9, all routine articles on the war-

rant. In Article 6, the voters authorized the Board of Assessors to appoint one or more of their membership to work for compensation and to establish an hourly rate to be paid from an Assessors' Payroll Account. The hourly rates were \$20 for the clerk and \$15 for the assessor's assistant. Voters also authorized the treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

Article 8 authorized the Library Board of Trustees to retain all monies received for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2020 by the Town Treasurer under Chapter 78 of M.G.L. (State Aide to Libraries) and any other unexpected source to be held over and carried forward for the general use of the Library. Article 9 pursuant to M.G.L. C.44, §54E1/2, put spending limits for the Revolving Funds. Spending limits included: \$2,000 Conservation Commission, \$5,000 Parks and Recreation Commission, \$25,000 inspection services, \$10,000 Board of Health, \$5,000 Town Hall Committee, \$5,000 Deputy Tax Collector, \$5,000 Animal Control Officer and \$7,500 Planning Board.

Voters approved the final article for a conservation restriction on 77 acres of land on West Brookfield Road owned by Joan R. Walker and Randall P. Walker. Cynthia Henshaw of East Quabbin Land Trust said normally a conservation

See NEW BRAINTREE ATM, page 5

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News of the Towns



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Church to hold drive thru dinner

The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold a drive thru roast beef dinner Saturday, Oct. 10 with pick up from 5-5:30 p.m. People should RSVP to Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140. Cost is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child.

Farmers' market

The Barre Farmers' Market takes place every Saturday on the Barre Common from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The farmers' market now has raspberries, apples, peaches, corn, tomatoes, summer squash, zucchini, cucumbers and much more.

Cradle Rock OES has successful dinner

Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star (OES) would like to thank everyone, who supported their annual chicken barbecue. This year they were able to continue the annual tradition with a successful drive-thru event.

Back the Blue/Support Trump Rally

Back the Blue/Support Trump Rally will be held Friday, Sept. 25 from 4-6 p.m. on the Barre Common.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Sept. 28.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Chicken cordon bleu, mashed sweet potatoes, Capri blend vegetables, lemon pudding, diet = sugar free pudding, pumpernickel bread

TUES. – Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, broccoli, fresh fruit, French bread

WED. – Marinated pork loin, herbed potatoes, carrots, vanilla mousse, whole wheat bread

THURS. – BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables, mixed fruit, blueberry snack 'n loaf

FRI. – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, peaches, Italian bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert
**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

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Charitable foundation donates to Listening Wellness Center



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

Barre Savings Charitable Foundation directors Stephen M Brewer, left and Brian Cirelli, right, present a \$5,000 grant check to Laura Dusha Nelson, center, of the Listening Wellness Center in Barre. The grant will support reopening services and adapting to post COVID-19 health standards.

BARRE — The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation is dedicated to building a stronger local community by supporting those organizations enriching the quality of life of others. BSCF was established when the Barre Savings

Bank merged with Fidelity Cooperative Bank in 2016. The purpose of the foundation is to provide charitable support for the people in communities previously served by Barre Savings Bank. The charitable foundation focuses its giving on

youth and senior programs, programs supporting education and health and human services and other projects improving the quality of life in the communities. People may visit www.barresavings.org for more information and grant application.

Woods Memorial Library offers new items emails

BARRE — Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., offers its patrons free Wowbrary email alerts showcasing their newest titles. Wowbrary alerts describe the latest books, movies, audio-books, music CDs and magazines available at the library, whether checked out or not. They include cover images, descriptions and links to each C/W MARS catalog record so users can place holds.

Users can customize the alerts to feature preferences such

as formats, genres, authors, and age groups.

The newsletter, which is sent Wednesdays, also includes information about the library's services and programs.

A version of the newsletter will be posted on the library's website and staff will post a copy at the side entrance for those without online access. Wowbrary alerts are free and do not require a library card. People may go to <https://www.wowbrary.org/> to sign up using zip

code 01005 or to learn more.

Woods Memorial Library's current outdoor material pickup appointments and returns service hours are: Tuesday, 2:30-5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Friday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information about the library, people may visit <https://www.barrelibrary.org/> or call 978-355-2533.

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem is sad to report that their entire summer season has been canceled due to COVID-19, and the need for continued care and social distancing.

The trustees of Eastern States Exposition announce that the 2020 Big E, West Springfield, has been cancelled for this year. It will return next year Sept. 17 to Oct. 3, 2021.

Grandview Terrace Association bazaar will not be held this October.

The 42nd Apple Country Fair, which was originally scheduled

for Oct. 10 has been cancelled. People may still buy raffle tickets for the quilt for just \$5. People may buy quilt raffle tickets online at www.applecountryfair.com. If they are uncomfortable buying tickets online, they can see any of the Brookfield Community Club board members to purchase tickets as well. They can also call Lois O'Leary at the Town Hall to make an appointment to stop in and see her at (508) 867-2930, extension 24. Drawing will be held live on the Apple Country Fair Facebook page, Oct. 10 at 4 p.m. Next year's Fair will be Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021 on the Brookfield Common.

St. Mary's Women's Club of Orange cancelled its Annual Fall Parish Fair. The decision was made to cancel the fair and try to hold the fair or at least parts of the fair, in the spring. It is unclear yet what this means, but most likely the chili, beans, beef stew and pies will be offered as take out and the raffles for cash and scratch tickets, restaurant gift certificates, etc. will be held in the spring. Club members will be soliciting gift certificates after the New Year for the Restaurant Raffle, and members will be selling raffle tickets in early spring. The date for the fair and drawings will be set in the early spring.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Medicare open enrollment runs Oct. 15-Dec. 7

It's that time of year again for Medicare enrollment. During the annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period from Thursday, Oct. 15 through Tuesday, Dec. 7, people have a chance to change their Medicare plan for next year. A trained Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone counselor provides free unbiased help so people can better understand their plan changes, as well as options to save on Medicare healthcare costs. People may call the Hubbardston Senior Center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 and ask for a SHINE phone appointment.

Hubbardston STM

The town of Hubbardston will hold a Special Town Meeting Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Hubbardston Center School.

Senior activities

The Hubbardston Senior Center is slowly opening. They have rented a 30 x 30 tent so that the seniors will be able to start some social activities outside, limited to 10 people at a time to start. People should call the senior center to register for any of the activities below: Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. Coffee with Friends, from noon-3 p.m. Bingo: People should call Flo to register at 978-928-5113. Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Walking Club Richard Hackett. Meet outside of center Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Coffee with Friends, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Trim Together 11 a.m. to noon, Book Club Thursdays 9 to 11 a.m., Walking Club. People may call Mel 978-928-5120 Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Meals on Wheels egg and food distribution. This schedule will be effective for the month of September (subject to change).

Dog licenses

Dog licenses are past due. Residents, who have not registered their dog in 2020, should do so at their earliest convenience. Although late fees have been waived for the remainder of the year, dog licenses are still required by law in the State of Massachusetts. If the owner's dog has an expired rabies and his or her vet has scheduled out the appointment due to COVID-19, the owner should contact the Town Clerk's office at 978-928-1400, extension 2020 or tclerk@hubbardston-ma.us to ensure the file has been marked accordingly. Animal Control has begun issuing fines for non-compliance. Dogs may be licensed in person by appointment or online by clicking the following link: <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/customerinfo.aspx>.

Library hosts fairy house craft with Mary Jo Maichack

HUBBARDSTON – The Hubbardston Public Library will host Minstrel Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack in a participatory family program especially recommended for children ages four and older with their caregivers. "Fairy House Craft" is a delightful "make and take" workshop. It will take place Thursday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hubbardston Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The show is free and open to the public.

Families will receive natural woodland materials such as acorn, twigs, bark and pinecones, some fairy baubles and use glue and imagination to create tiny houses or furniture for fairies, in small containers. If families wish to bring more of their own woodland materials, they are welcome to do so. This program ties in with "Imagine Your Story," the library's summer reading theme for 2020, on fairy tales.

"Families have loved taking part in this program and as they use their imaginations, they have fun collaborating and thinking of the housing needs of others, in this case, the fairy folk," said Maichack, a professional storyteller and singer. The craft program is a relatively new adventure in programming for her, although many years ago she was a children's librarian and after-school programmer.

Maichack is a national award-winning storyteller and teaching artist. Her craft programs have packed houses. She has performed some 3,000 shows in libraries, schools, festivals since 1989. She was featured several times at the Connecticut Storytelling Festival, Three Apples and Mark Twain Festivals and from San Francisco to Venice, Italy. Her recordings can be found at her website at www.MaryJoMaichack.com.

For more information or to register for this program, people may call the Hubbardston Public Library at 978-928-4775. Space is extremely limited, due to social distancing requirements.



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.

BARRE

Cemetery Commission – Sept. 24 at 11 a.m.
Library Trustees – Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.
Finance Committee – Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Historical Commission – Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Oct. 7 at 1 p.m.
Water Commission – Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.
Board of Health – Nov. 9 at 5 p.m.

HARDWICK

Finance Committee – Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.
Wheelwright Water District – Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.
Recycling Commission – Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – Oct. 9 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – Oct. 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Registrars – Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Selectmen – Sept. 28 and Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings – Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – Sept. 29 and Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Historic Commission – Oct. 3 at 10 a.m.
Conservation Commission – Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Planning Board – Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Oct. 1 and Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 16 at 11 a.m.
Council on Aging – Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Cable Advisory Committee – Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.
Public hearing pole hearing select board – Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.
Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – Oct. 6 at 1 p.m.

Oakham Town Clerk lists voting information

OAKHAM – The last date to register to vote for the Tuesday, Nov. 3 election is Saturday, Oct. 24 in the Oakham Town Hall from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. The polls will be open Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Early voting in person will be held in the voting room at the Oakham Town Hall Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon; Monday, Oct. 26 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please note no more mail in requests will be sent out if not received in the town clerk's office by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28. People should drop off in the blue drop off box, the town clerk will be in their office at 5 p.m. to get the requests. Voters, who have requested an Absentee or Early Voting by mail ballot, now have the ability to track their ballot through the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/where-doivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>.

Back Roads Studio Tour set for Oct. 3 and 4

REGION – The Back Roads Studio Tour will have a different look this year due to COVID-19. It will be held the first weekend of October, Oct. 3 and 4, weather permitting.

Most of the artists are choosing to do an outside "curb side" tour at their homes. This is a chance to support local artists during trying times. The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, in the towns of Barre, New Braintree, Spencer, North Brookfield and West Brookfield. Masks are a must as well as social distancing. The following artists will participate: Sue Morello of Sheldon Farm Baskets (hand crafted baskets), Bonnie Waterhouse of Deer Run Studio (hand crafted jewelry) Lou Meyerderks of Pieceful Primitives (wool appliqué), Jeffrey Palmer of Palmer Design Group (hand crafted wood furniture), David Thompson (hand crafted wood products), Frank White of Hollowood (carved wooden bowls and vessels) and Jeremy Kokocinski of Hillside Ironworks (ornamental iron work). People may visit the website at www.back-roadsstudiotour.org for a description of participating artists and the studios map.

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Barre Gazette

Listening offers virtual enrichment programs for kids

By Paula Ouimette

BARRE – Many changes have happened in the past 20 years that the Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., has been in existence. But certainly, 2020 has seen the most challenging of adjustments. Nevertheless, Listening Wellness Center has found a way to rise up and continue to offer vital services to people in Barre and surrounding towns. They successfully launched a Zoom yoga class, led by Eowyn Ahlstrom, over the summer and began preparing their fall schedule for the same online format.

With children returning back to school in a variety of ways, whether in-person, hybrid, remote or homeschool, the Listening Wellness Center saw a great need to provide "after school" enrichment programming like they traditionally do. "The community needs our presence right now," said Laura Dusha Nelson, Executive Director of the Listening Wellness Center. They have been able to provide many of the same children's programs as they typically do. Zoom class sizes will be kept small, to guarantee that each child receives full attention and participants can interact with each other in a comfortable environment. Programs are designed for children ages 5-12.

"The Art of Horses with Jen Swan" will be held Mondays, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 3:45-4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The cost is \$30 for one child and \$40 per family. To register, people may visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listenings-kids-art-class-with-jen-swan-on-zoom-4-mon-days-tickets-121053292657?fbclid=IwAR2TyEv-Kb7-z0DA-JMAMb97swFhdFBwui_j9k3_BIZZBOLEnaHVrjK1Rmd4.

Jen Swan, a local artist/educator has a passion for painting and murals. She has taught at various places including Worcester Art Museum, the Think Tank, Technocopia and schools. She works a lot with cultural grants and schools. She has been with the Listening Wellness Center for about 3 years and enjoys teaching all ages.

"Horses have been a source of creative inspiration and a symbol of freedom and strength in art from Prehistoric times to Modern Art. We will look at imagery of horses from diverse cultures and famous artists as we study the movement, dramatic poses and body proportions of these powerful animals. Projects will include cave art inspired pastel drawings, traditional and modern drawings and paintings and a ceramic or other sculpture material study," said Swan. Participants will receive a list of necessary art supplies when they register and are encouraged to use what they have on hand at home. Swan will provide a supply list for both Walmart and Amazon, for ease of shopping.

"Musical Exploration Ensemble At Home with Cassie Kollman" will be held Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 4:45-5:15 p.m. via Zoom. The cost is \$30 for one child and \$40 per family. To register, people may visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listenings-kids-music-class-with-cassie-on-zoom-4-tuesdays-tickets-120441930055>.

Cassie Kollman, a singer/



Jen Swan



Cassie Kollman



Kathy Carmosino



Jen Zehler

songwriter, has been with the Listening Wellness Center for about 2 years. She lives in town and works locally, providing camps, music programs, youth theater, vocal instruction and music theory. Kollman is a former Montessori music teacher and youth theater teacher.

"Together we will learn about the fundamentals of making music, including rhythm, pitch, form, and improvisation. In each class we will learn a new musical concept, practice and play together, and share virtual creative space. No music experience required, come ready to sing, play, and move!" said Kollman. Participants do not need to buy any special materials for this class – they will make music from objects found at home.

"Cooking and Baking with Kathy Carmosino" will be held Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 3:15-4 p.m. The cost is \$30 for one child and \$40 per family. To register, people may visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listenings-kids-cooking-baking-class-with-kathy-on-zoom-4-wednesdays-tickets-120095971283>.

Kathy Carmosino, a Hubbardston resident, has been at the Listening Wellness Center for about 6 years. She is well known locally for her baking skills, having provided the treats for the Quabbin Pro Musica bake sales when her children were in school.

Participants will learn to make omelets customized to each child's preference, pumpkin pancakes, pasta primavera and muffins. Recipes use common kitchen staples, in addition to fresh ingredients. Most of the recipes can be adjusted to fit your child's individual taste buds. A responsible adult should be on hand to assist children with use of an oven, sharp knives, etc. but stay as hands off as possible.

"How to Be Brave, Kind, and Resilient: activities to nurture peaceful living skills for kids with Jen Zehler" will be held for 7 weeks starting Thursday, Oct. 8 from 3:30-4 p.m. for grades k-2 and from 4:30-5 p.m. for grades 3-5. This program is free to all participants. To register, people may visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listenings-kids-how-to-be-brave-kind-and-resilient-tickets-120441930055>.

[eventbrite.com/e/listenings-kids-mindfulness-free-w-jen-zehler-on-zoom-7-wks-thursdays-tickets-120444590011](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listenings-kids-mindfulness-free-w-jen-zehler-on-zoom-7-wks-thursdays-tickets-120444590011). The funding for this program is generously offered by the benefactors of the non-profit Trinity Institute for Applied Neuroscience and Spirituality [tians.us](https://www.trinityinstitute.org) who strongly believe in the value of this work.

Jen Zehler is new to the Listening Wellness Center, but has already provided services to the greater Barre community by offering a mindfulness program to teachers and students through the Quabbin Regional School District. Jen is the Director of the Center for Children's Spirituality at TIANS (the Trinity Institute for Applied Neuroscience and Spirituality). She is a certified teacher and has received training in Mindful Schools, and the Mindful Life curriculum.

"In each class we will explore ways to be more brave, kind, and resilient through mindfulness, movement, music, art, and stories. Mindfulness can be summed up as both an 'inner' and 'outer' education/investigation of our lives. For kids, practicing mindfulness might just look like a little more silence, a little more slowing down, and more one-thing-at-a-time built into the day's routines. Research has shown that when children learn mindfulness skills it helps them to recognize and work with difficult emotions, manage stress, and develop healthy relationships with themselves, others, and the natural world," said Zehler.

Parents are encouraged to sign up their children as soon as possible, as space is limited for these programs. People can sign up by going to the Eventbrite links listed above, which can also be found by visiting www.listeningwellness.org, or Listening Wellness Center on Facebook, or by calling 978-355-3501. Scholarships are available through a grant from the Barre Savings Bank Charitable Foundation. Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first serve basis and participants must register at least one week prior to the start of classes. Scholarship

See LISTENING, page 5

Oakham

Ellenor Downer

edowner@turley.com



BSER to hold shavings sale

Bay State Equine Rescue will hold its fall shavings sale. BSER is working with Camp Marshall and the supplier to arrange a delivery date during the week.

Due to the pandemic a weekend pickup would most likely not be possible. BSER will know by Oct. 12 which morning. BESER is hoping for a Tuesday or Wednesday delivery. Everyone who places an order will be notified the exact date once known. Volunteers will load shavings into vehicles like the last time. Shavings pickup will be at Camp Marshall, 92 McCormick Road, Spencer from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Minimum shaving order is ten. Cost is \$4.90 per plastic wrapped bale up to 199 and \$4.75 per bale for 200 and up. Bales are 3.25 cubic feet compressed or 7.5 cubic feet loose. To order shavings, people should contact Sharon at 508-892-0233 or sah@baystate-equinerescue.com. The rescue can use all the support it can get given these difficult times. It had to cancel its major fundraiser 5K run at Old Sturbridge Village in July.

Tours of Oakham Museum

Tours of the Oakham Historical Museum and the Young Family Annex are available by appointment. During a private tour, visitors may enjoy browsing several photo albums that have been recently refurbished and reorganized. The albums contain photos of Oakham people and events from the 1800s into current times. A second exhibit displays a preservation project for a scrapbook containing news clippings from The Worcester Telegram during 1915-1920, which describe an extensive range of social and political life, family life, and town events. These clippings were a valuable resource for the Museum's World War I exhibit in 2018 and for the June 2020 issue of the OHA newsletter article about the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic. Both of these projects were made possible with grants awarded by the Oakham Cultural Council, a local entity of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Individuals interested in visiting the Museum and the Annex may call Linda Housman, curator, at 508-882-3990 or 508-335-4633 to schedule an appointment. The museum and annex, located at 1221 Old Turnpike Road, are free and suitable for all. The Oakham Historical Association reminds visitors that face coverings are required and sanitizing lotion is available.

Jeff Young Memorial Golf Tournament

Registrations to play in the Jeff Young Memorial Golf Tournament filled up quickly. The limit of 100 players was reached before the Sept. 21 deadline. Now the foursomes are working on their drives and putting skills to be ready for the 9 a.m. shotgun start on Oct. 17.

The first ever tournament is being organized by the Young family to benefit the Oakham Historical Association (OHA), where Jeff served as president for 23 years. The tournament will be held at Quail Hollow Country Club on Old Turnpike Road, rain or shine.

There is still plenty of time for people to support this benefit by sponsoring a hole with a \$100 minimum donation. This is an ideal opportunity to support the tournament even if you cannot play. If you have a favorite number between 1 and 18, you can designate which hole you would like to support. Just include the hole number on the sponsor form. You may include your company name or your own name on the sponsor form.

This golf tournament is a tribute to his memory and his many years of service to Oakham.

See OAKHAM, page 5

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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Can I help my friend with his Social Security?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am trying to help a good friend of mine who lives in Indiana and is 80-years-old. I am very concerned as he's not now collecting Social Security for some reason, and I have no idea why. Is there any reason that you know of that would keep him from getting his benefits? Is there maybe something he might have done to keep him from getting his money? He worked his whole life, is a retired electrician and was a long-time member of the Electricians' Union. I'm not sure if he knows how to apply for his benefits, but he's having a hard time making ends meet and could definitely use the extra money. He told me that an organization has offered to help him, but it will cost \$7,500 and there is no guarantee they can get it for him. He can't afford to pay that kind of money only to be told there is nothing they can do for him. I'm hoping you can give me some insight. Signed: Faithful Friend

Dear Faithful Friend: If your friend has, as you say, worked and contributed to Social Security via FICA payroll taxes all his life, then he should be eligible to collect Social Security benefits. It only takes 40 quarters of credit (about 10 years of earnings) to be eligible for SS, so he should certainly be eligible if he paid SS FICA taxes for enough years.

Are there reasons why he might not be collecting? Sure, but they're not common, and here are a few:

- Indiana is one of 26 states where some state employees don't participate in the federal Social Security program. If your friend was a state employee for his whole life he may not have contributed to Social Security, so he may not have the requisite 40 credits needed to collect Social Security.
- Social Security benefits are generally exempt from garnishing, except for certain types of situations. Any U.S. government agency (such as the IRS if he owes back taxes) can garnish his benefits if he owes them money. His benefits can also be garnished for unpaid alimony or child support. But usually such garnishment means only reducing his Social Security benefit, not completely eliminating it.
- If he were collecting Social Security at one time, but Social Security later found that he had been overpaid for any reason, they could withhold his benefits until they recovered the overpayment. Sometimes, the actions of someone else (e.g., a former spouse) can cause him to be liable for an overpayment, but Social Security would have sent him a letter informing him of the overpayment and giving him an opportunity to appeal it. In any case, Social Security would only withhold benefits until the overpayment was fully recovered.
- Social Security benefits are not automatically awarded. If your friend simply neglected to apply for benefits when he was eligible, Social Security wouldn't sign him up automatically, regardless of his age. He will simply not get benefits unless he applies for them.

Your friend shouldn't pay anyone to find out if he's eligible for Social Security benefits. The answer is simply a phone call away by contacting the Social Security Administration, either at the national number, 1.800.772.1213, or by contacting his local Social Security office (the local contact information is at www.ssa.gov/locator). Generally, this type of transaction can be accomplished over the phone. He should call Social Security and tell them he wishes to apply for "Social Security Retirement Benefits." Once they have his Social Security number they can tell immediately if he is eligible for benefits and, if he is, he should ask for six months retroactive benefits (SS will pay up to 6 months retroactively).

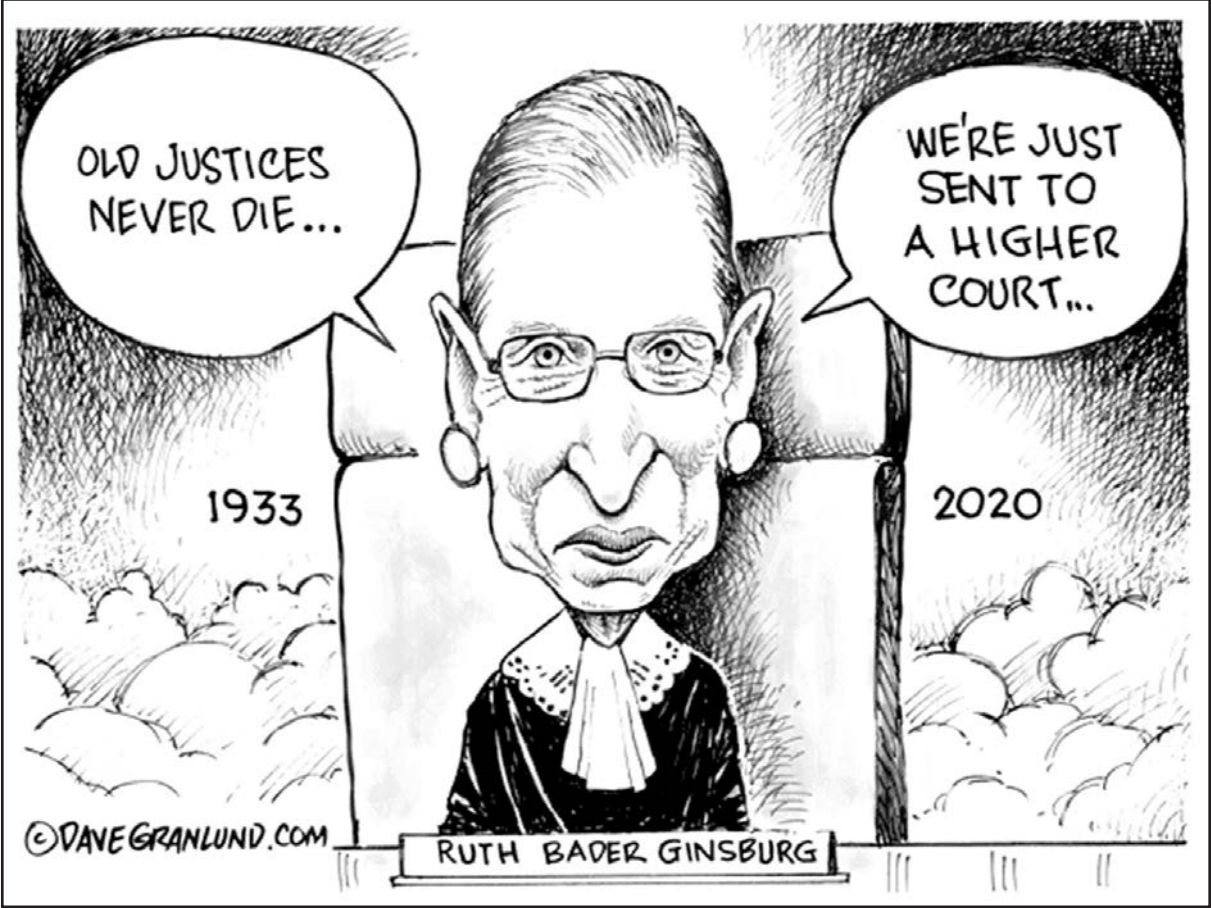
If your friend cannot, for any reason, contact Social Security himself to discuss his situation, he can appoint someone, such as you, to represent him in these matters. Here is a link to Social Security's rules on having someone represent him: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf. You are, indeed, a good and faithful friend.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit AMAC's website amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email ssadvisr@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Have Something to Share?
Send your stories and photos to
edowner@turley.com

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In Past Pages

5 years ago (Sept. 24, 2015)

Quabbin's Tiana Morin and company proved they have what it takes when the going gets tough after a hard fought 1-0 victory over the Westboro Rangers in field hockey action last Friday afternoon. It all boiled down to a penalty stroke eleven minutes into the first half, that senior tri-captain Morin took after the Ranger goalie took her down. The result was one to be expected as Morin has demonstrated success in clutch situations. "We won on a penalty stroke," Quabbin coach Shelly Zalneraitis said. "The goalie slide tackled Tiana who was taken off her feet when she was trying to score. We earned the penalty stroke and Tiana scored low and on the boards striking the ball hard behind the goalie." Morin was just happy to be able to assist the team to earn the win.

Mr. and Mrs. David Mars of Barre were recently in Oklahoma where they proudly got to see their son receive a Quilt of Valor. These quilts are presented to combat veterans retired or active. The quilts are made by many women that donate their time to honor these vets. As of today, these women have distributed 17,000 quilts. Mr. and Mrs. Mars are proud of their son, Kenneth Mars, who also did a tour in Iraq and was in the Air Force for 25 years.

Bay State Equine Rescue (BSER) has a new location. Soon the ten horses currently in its care will move from Hunt Road in Oakham to a new home on 847 New Braintree Road. Currently, rescue founder Susan Sheridan keeps the horses at her home. The organization, founded in 2002, has been looking for a place for a long time. Three years ago BSER received a donation from an equine lover, who bequeathed a trust to the nonprofit in her will. In August, the dream for a new location became reality. The rescue acquired the New Braintree Road property at a foreclosure auction. The property has 11 acres, large paddock areas and a six-stall barn. BSER plans to convert a shavings room into a seventh stall. It also includes a turnout shelter plus a house with attached garage.

10 years ago (Sept. 30, 2010)

The Oakham West Schoolhouse has been named one of Massachusetts' Most Endangered Historic Resources. Since 1993, this list is compiled annually by Preservation Massachusetts, the state's historic preservation advocacy organization. Oakham West Schoolhouse is a one room brick schoolhouse built in 1827. It replaced a drafty wooden structure on the same 1.3-acre site. The schoolhouse was closed in 1920 due to the low number of students and the high cost of maintenance. It is considered to be the best-preserved one room schoolhouse in Oakham and has seen many alterations. Most of its interior and exterior features are intact, although in very poor condition. The town bought the schoolhouse in 2002 at auction.

The Nashua Valley Council

LOOK BACK
Quabbin Field Hockey - 2015



Turley Publications File Photo

The Quabbin field hockey team is led by captains (from left to right): Jillian Schlegel, Tiana Morin and Jillian Nichols.

court of awards was recently held at the Barre Congregational Church. The scouts received recognition of rank advancements, merit badges earned and recognition of individual accomplishments during the past year, which included what they have done during their weeklong summer camp at Camp Wanocksett in New Hampshire. Scoutmaster Jeff Degnan, along with assistant scoutmasters Glen Alt, Walter Lindsey and Dennis Fleming thank the parents of the Boy Scouts for their help and a special thanks to those that brought refreshments for the ceremony. They thank the Barre Congregational Church for the use of the church's facility. Boy Scouts include Clay Degnan, Joshua Bates, Tyler Pimental, Jack Brunelle, Andrew Mielt, Jared Daigneault, Mike Caruso, Collin Fleming, Ben Alt, Zack Glidden, Joe Caruso and Ben Schmitz.

C. Ronald Potter, known as Ron or "The Main Man" at Barre Savings Bank (BSB) has made several attempts to retire from his maintenance position at the bank, but they have always managed to get him back until now. Ron has been taking care of the maintenance needs of BSB since 1974. The staff admits they have been spoiled by his willingness to take care of whatever needs attention at any given time. Being a lifelong resident of Barre and having a special interest in its history, Ron has numerous stories and memories of the community and the bank.

25 years ago (Sept. 28, 1995)

The South Barre Women's Union will hold their first meeting of the 1995-96 season with a covered dish supper. After the business session, there will be a penny sale. Joanne Lussier is president; Virginia Unitis, vice president; Angie Duval, treasurer; Lucy Valente, secretary; and Santa Neri, corresponding secretary.

Family and friends were successful in surprising Frank Varnot on Labor Day with an early 80th birthday celebration. Frank thought he was going to a family cookout at his daughter's (Ginger Asel) in Royalston. Friends who arrived

early were inside her home, the parsonage, signing the guest book, sharing memorable pictures in an album made for the occasion, and enjoying appetizers. Most cars were parked in the schoolyard. As Frank was stepping from his car, a chorus of "Surprise," "Happy Birthday" rang out from guests emerging from the house. Frank said the experience was overwhelming. He was ushered to a chair in a shaded spot where a reception line spontaneously formed. One guest commented to his daughter, I don't think your Dad had cried so much in one day. "They were tears of joy," Frank said.

Suzanne Fullam, president of the Barre Players, presented an award of appreciation to Genevieve Fraser for all her work in the recent Playwright Festival. Genevieve organized the event, directed three of the nine plays, and acted in one play.

38 years ago (Sept. 29, 1982)

Mr. and Mrs. Dominic DiRuzza of North Chelmsford, former residents of South Barre, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last Sunday. Pat DiRuzza, Emily Cornacchia, Vicki Ricchiazzi and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ricchiazzi from Barre and South Barre traveled to North Chelmsford to join their aunt and uncle in this happy celebration.

Frank M. Kennedy, son of Young S. Kennedy of Worcester and retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Eugene C. Kennedy of Rutland (photographer for the Barre Gazette), has been officially accepted into the U.S. Military Academy's Corps of Cadets as a member of the class of 1986 during the annual acceptance parade.

Their second official inspection was completed last Tuesday by Miss Elisabeth A. Bentley and Mrs. Margaret E. Bentley, Deputy Grand Matron and Marshal of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star, in Rachel Chapter No. 61 at Grafton. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Clark, Mrs. Jule Flister, Mrs. Ruth Waite, Mrs. Eleanor Upham, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith and Mrs. Madeline Willey attended the meeting in Grafton.

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

It has been very quiet around the house this morning as Missy has gone to church and I am all alone and can get into lots of mischief if I want to. Yesterday there was plenty of excitement with neighbors visiting and the clearing out of the front hall so Missy's daughter could take away her old desk to give to her granddaughter, Sophia, who will start kindergarten this week. I was plum worn out after they left and had a good old snooze on Missy's bed.



This morning I think I will see what is left out in the front hall that I can take somewhere. Oh, here is one of Teddie's old imitation mice. Ugh, I'll just leave it right there. Teddie died about eight years ago, so that mouse is not to play with and very dusty.

However, there are some colored pencils that dropped out of the desk when they moved it. They will bat easily along the wooden floor out here. Yep, fun time. I will see if I can pick one up with my mouth and take it into the computer room and put it with my other trinkets. Wow, that was easier than I thought it would be. However, I just dropped it on the kitchen floor. Now, for another attempt to get to the right place. Dam, I hit the doorway of the computer room and lost the pencil again. This time it went under my shelf so I picked it up and put it in the right place.

Whew, I am all tucked out and need a nap. I will go in the living room on Missy's nice warm blanket by her chair.

Take care folks this week.

Love,
Gertrude

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005, faxed to 978-355-6274 or emailed to edowner@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call editor Ellenor Downer at 978-355-4000.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact Tim Mara, 978-355-2254 or tmara@turley.com, about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

BARRE GAZETTE

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***Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.**

Hardwick

Whistle Stop puts brakes on after 55 years

Owner to sell property

By Sloane M. Perron
Correspondent

GILBERTVILLE – The Whistle Stop, at 248 Main St., has been part of the heart and soul of the local community. Since opening in the summer of 1965, The Whistle Stop has served up Mickey Mouse pancakes, laughs and great conversation to generations of costumers.

This piece of Americana takes visitors back in time to when life was simple and good home cooking meant a lot of butter with a dash of sarcasm. However, times change, so when John Nurek, owner of The Whistle Stop, announced he was retiring and selling the building, there was a public outpouring of support as regulars shared their favorite memories on social media.

Nurek, along with his long-time friend and real estate agent, Dorrinda O’Keefe, spoke about the humble beginnings of the diner and relived some of their memories. The Whistle Stop’s story



Left to right are Sandi Nurek, Gail Glassbrenner, John Nurek, Jennifer O’Connor and Megan Gobi at the Whistle Stop.

began when Nurek’s uncle purchased the building from the New York Central Railroad intending to give it to his own children. When they declined, he sold it to Nurek’s parents, Pearl and Benny. Nurek’s parents were factory workers on

a tight budget, but with the help of friends, they were able to renovate the building into a working diner. This sense of community and support of one another has been a part of The Whistle Stop since its founding, and is something Nurek

continues today. Throughout the decades, The Whistle Stop attracted a wide and varied group of customers. Families, local regulars, motor-

See WHISTLE STOP, page 9



The Whistle Stop, located in a former train station in Gilbertville, looked a bit different back when trolleys rolled through town.



The grand opening of The Whistle Stop in the summer of 1965, Benny and Pearl Nurek, parents of the current owner, John Nurek.

BARRE,
continued from page 1

the superintendent how busing was going. She said only one tier of buses were needed and many parents provided transportation to and from school for their children. Selectman Urban said that some high school students had trouble logging on initially for remote learning. The superintendent said the bugs were ironed out and parents and students could email her or the district with any issues.

Cable update
Town administrator Jessica Sizer said the town might be eligible for \$200,000 through a Community Compact Grant for infrastructure. She said once Charter/Spectrum realized there

were not that many students on non-served roads, they were not as interested. Selectman Urban said the board needed to sit at the table with Charter/Spectrum and find out if they were really committed to improving cable access in town. He said some people hooked up to cable were not getting a full signal.

Supt. Muir said about 102 families in the district have poor, unreliable or no Internet service. The district applied for a grant from the Department of Education so they could purchase hot spots to improve service to families. She said places that had poor cell service would still have a problem. She said the district hoped to open New Braintree Grade School as a remote learning service. State provisions allow for up to age 14 and

she was working with the state to extend the age.

Police department update
Police Chief John Carbone said the Barre Police Department placed third in New England for Community Policing. He said his department was planning Barre Scary Halloween and anticipated being able to hold it on limited production.

He also said he ordered the new police cruiser and due to limited production, it should arrive in March 2021. He said he hoped to hold the citizens police academy. His department received a number of complaints regarding dirt bikes and issued citations. He said it was a big problem in the Commonwealth with the shutdown. He said there was a homicide Friday, Sept. 4. He said the “police

officers performed flawlessly and officers were up to the task.”

Chief Carbone said he moved the School Resource Officer from four days to five-days at Ruggles Lane Elementary and brought in extra officers to help with the plan. Supt. Muir said she appreciated the support from Chief Carbone and the police department.

Land donation
Felton Field Commissioner Larry Marshall said the received a letter from the Conservation Commission giving its blessing on the land gift from the Brown family for a parcel abutting Felton Field. He said he contacted the Barre Historical Society and the society had no history of business on the property that would be an issue. Selectman Urban said the

next step would be acceptance of the land donation at a town meeting. The board voted to endorse the town accepting the land and provide any relief of taxes if possible until the town formerly accepts the donation.

Other business
Selectmen unanimously voted to declare Saturday, Oct. 31 as the Halloween holiday for Barre and would determine hours later when it knew more of the plans and requirements for Halloween.

The board also awarded propane, heating oil and diesel bids to the lowest bidders. Awards were E.P. Wine for propane and R. J. McDonald, Inc. for No. 2 heating oil and diesel.

Selectmen appointed town administrator Jessica Sizer as

one of the two members to a task force to look into development of a regional district for Rutland Emergency Dispatch. Selectmen also will ask the police chief and fire chief if either of them would want to serve on the task force.

Selectman chair Greg O’Sullivan said an air conditioner unit over a public way fell from a second story window. No one was hurt, but he said he brought the issue up earlier and it needed to be addressed. He said the units should be held with brackets or enclosed in a box. Selectman Urban said he thought the town had a by law on this and would look it up. Selectmen will bring the issue up at the next Department of Public Works meeting as sidewalks are a public way.

The CDC estimates that, on average, alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 4,358 young people under 21 each year.

You can do a lot to help yourself and others by encouraging your peers to make healthy choices and by NEVER supplying alcohol or drugs for others.

Teenagers look up to adults,

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Away fans not allowed at high school games

Limited attendance will be allowed at most high schools

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – High school athletes returned to the field for tryouts last Friday. The tryouts will continue into this week with games set to begin at the end of next week.

Nearly all of the schools in Western Massachusetts, specifically in and around the Pioneer Valley

will be full participants in the Fall 1 season, which will feature all of the fall sports with the exception of football, cheerleading, and unified basketball.

There are some schools that have opted to defer moderate risk sports like girls volleyball and soccer to the Fall 2 season in late February.

While student-athletes will have the opportunity to being playing games after a six-month layoff from most activity, fans will only be allowed to have limited participation.

David Stratton, a member of the

board of directors for the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, said the PVIAC has issued guidance and agreed that all schools in the membership will only allow for home fans at games to begin with.

Stratton said it will be up to the individual schools to govern how the crowds will be controlled, but all schools are only allowed to host fans for their own team.

Those crowds will be limited to just 50 people, per the current outdoor guidelines set by Gov. Charlie Baker.

In many cases, players on individual teams will be given a limited number of passes, likely ranging from 1 to 3 per person, and that player will be allowed to give those passes to family or friends to attend the game. Fans who attend the games must socially distance, stay away from the participants, and wear face coverings in order to watch the games. There also could be restricted areas for seating at game sites.

Those fans will not be permitted to travel to away games and will be turned away by other schools.

There are a few schools, either

due to staffing, field configuration, or other factors, that are not allowing any fans at all to games. Ware confirmed last Thursday there will be no fans allowed at games to start the fall season. The Ware Athletic Department is hopefully to develop a plan as the season progresses so some fans can be welcomed back to fields.

The rules will be in place for at least the fall season, and Stratton said unless a specific school makes a more stringent restriction, a limited number of fans will be allowed indoors to watch volleyball games

as well.

Stratton said participants in the contests, such as players, coaches, and officials, do not count toward the 50 restriction for gatherings.

The MIAA has set an Oct. 1 date for the start of games. There will be approximately 10 to 12 contests for soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball, allowing parents approximately 5 to 6 chances to see games this season.

Parents and athletes should check with their specific high school's athletic department for details on that school's fan rules.

Help feature your student athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is starting and Turley Publications is looking forward to getting back out on the field to bring you the high school action for all your favorite teams.

We know this fall season is important to many senior athletes, who watched Class of 2020 lose their entire spring season.

We're asking for help on this upcoming season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide

See STUDENTS, page 8

Regional sports return



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Payouts, rules revealed for 'World Series' event

THOMPSON, Conn. - American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials have announced the purse structure, rules, and other information for a trio of open shows at the 58th World Series of Speedway Racing. High-paying single-day events are planned for the Tour-Type Modifieds, 350 Small Block Super Modifieds, and ACT-type Late Models on the Saturday portion of the 18-division card.

World Series promoters Cris Michaud and Tom Mayberry have posted more than \$26,000 in awards for the Tour-Type Modified Open on Saturday, October 10. Whoever triumphs in the 75-lap main event will cash a \$5,000 winner's check. Everyone who takes the green flag receives a minimum of \$500 to start.

The event is open to cars that fit the rule sets of the Modified Racing Series, Race of Champions Modifieds, Tri-Track Open Modified Series, or Stafford Open Series. SK Modifieds may also compete using any carburetor. The entry fee is \$50 for entries postmarked by October 1 and \$100 for entries sent after that date.

All entrants are required to run Hoosier 1320 tires on the left side and Hoosier 1330 tires on the right side. These tires must be purchased at the track from Hoosier Tire East. Teams may register up to six tires and need to have four registered tires on the car for both qualifying and the feature.

Both the 50-lap ACT-Type Late Model Open and the 30-lap 350 Super Modified Open will pay \$2,000 to win and \$300 to start. The Late Model feature has just over \$14,000 in total awards while the 350 Super Modified feature offers nearly \$13,000 in posted awards based on a 30-car starting field.

The Late Model event will use American-Canadian Tour and Thompson Late Model rules. The ACT rule set can be found at www.actour.com/rules (link is external). Tires for the event must be purchased at the track on race day.

See WORLD SERIES, page 8

Robie clinches modified title, other crowns up for grabs

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Trevor Bleau (Troy, NH) won the race Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway that had eluded him all season. But, while Bleau won the battle, Brian Robie won the war.

With Robie's strong third-place outing in Saturday's NHSTRA Modified main event, the Sunapee star clinched the 2020 track title. The speedway's other four divisional crowns, however, will all wait to be decided on the final day of the season.

Bleau, the runner-up a week earlier, was one of three first-of-the-season feature winners Saturday. On the fourteenth event of the summer, Emerson Cayer (Contoocook, NH) and C.J. Johnson (Keene, NH) also earned their first victory laps of the year.

While Cayer made easy work of scoring Saturday's 50-lap NHSTRA Battle for The Belt Mini Stock feature, Gordon Farnum – a six-time 2020 feature winner – cruised quietly to a fifth-place finish and, with it, the championship of the multi-track Belt series.

Cameron Houle and Bleau raced under a blanket for the first ten laps of the Modified go-round, with Bleau then using the low groove to take command and never look back. Ben Byrne, needing desperately to make up big ground on Robie, got up for second on



Submitted photos

Belchertown's Chris Buffone captured the street stock event.

lap 25 but had nothing more for Bleau.

Robie, charging from row five, swiped third from Houle on the final corner of the 40-lapper; more than enough to clinch the 2020 Modified crown. He is currently fourth nationally in NASCAR Division 1 points.

Eleven-time LMS winner Aaron Fellows left Saturday's feature on the hook before a lap had been completed, the victim of someone else's blunder. That gave Robert Hagar (Windsor, VT) a chance to close the championship points battle entering the season finale, and Hagar took full advantage of the opening.

Hagar stormed past Justin

Littlewood on lap two and roared off to his second win of the summer. Teen star Camdyn Curtis equaled his season's best in the runner-up slot, and Littlewood came home third.

In the Mini Stock 50-lapper, Cayer took the lead from Nathan Wenzel on lap 12 and quickly social-distanced himself from the pack to score his first Monadnock win of the summer. Louie Maher, the 2019 track titlist, was second, but had nothing for Cayer. Wenzel, strong in third, went home 20 points behind Farnum.

Jeff Asselin, seventh on the night, stayed out of trouble to leapfrog Jake Puchalski for top 2020 Mini Stock rookie hon-



Trevor Bleau was a winner in the modified race, his first win of the season.

ors, taking a two-point advantage in that competition into next Saturday's season finale. Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH) won the 2020 Mini Stock Battle for the Belt Championship.

The hard-charging Curtis twins, Jaret and Chase, came into Saturday's Street Stock feature tied atop the points parade. Number three man Chris Buffone (Belchertown, Ma) needed a statement run to keep his championship hopes alive, and he accomplished exactly that.

Rocketing into the lead on lap two, Buffone sailed to his third win of the summer, getting the job done with his uncle, Tommy O'Sullivan, glued to his bumper.

Last season's top gun, Dave Greenslit, was strong in third and, at the end of the night, Chase Curtis went home two points ahead of brother Jaret, with Buffone still in the hunt, 28 back.

Firing from row three, C.J. Johnson took control of the Pure Stock feature on lap three and then checked out on the field to score his first win of the summer. Chris Davis, needing to make big inroads on points leader Mike Douglas, took second on lap five but, with Douglas quickly pulling up to his bumper, could make only a minimal gain.

Douglas enters next Saturday's

See RACING, page 8

Tri-County to hold golf tournament

BELCHERTOWN – The Tri-County Baseball League, the premier adult baseball league in Western Massachusetts, will hold its annual golf tournament at Mill Valley Golf Links in Belchertown on Saturday, Oct. 3 with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$80 per player. If you're unable to play, there are donations and hole sponsorships available. The tournament will include lunch during the round, raffle, closest to the pin, longest drive, and a special 50/50 drawing. For more information, go to www.tri-countybaseball.net. The registration form is on that website.

Education

College News

Dominic Spinelli graduates from Wentworth Institute

BOSTON – Dominic Spinelli of Rutland has graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston.

The university held a special virtual salute to its summer graduates on Aug. 16.

Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology stresses project-based, hands-on learning, with an emphasis on cooperative education and careers, community enrichment, and contributing to the economic vitality of the Greater Boston region. Wentworth has some 19 bachelor's degree programs in areas such as architecture; construction management; mechanical, biomedical and civil engineering; and computer science. It offers master's degrees in applied computer science, architecture, civil engineering, construction management, facility management and technology management.

Gia Hill makes dean's list at Wentworth Institute of Technology

BOSTON – Gia Ly Hill of Hubbardston made the dean's list at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the summer 2020 semester.

Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology stresses project-based, hands-on learning, with an emphasis on cooperative education and careers, community enrichment, and contributing to the economic vitality of the Greater Boston region.

Send your school photos & stories to edowner@turley.com

QCC students inform their peers on the impact of voting

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) students are getting the word out about the power and impact of voting. As a service to the community, the college has developed an informational video campaign that highlights college students discussing the importance of voting. The videos remind people of the Oct. 8 deadline for voter registration and encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming elections. In addition to producing videos, the college is using #QCCVotes to drive voter registrations and student participation via social media.

The college's easy to navigate webpage, www.QCC.edu/vote, offers a direct link to the Commonwealth's voter registration

page and other important voting information. QCC is working in collaboration with the Higher Education Consortium Central MA and its Get Out The Vote Group, as well as MassVote, to promote the videos throughout the City of Worcester and help build awareness.

Young voters have the power to change elections and represent close to one third of the voting population, yet historically vote less often than those of the baby boomer generation. QCC's Voting campaign shines the spotlight on the ability to shape the future through voting.

A 2018 study done by Tufts University showed that college students more than doubled their rate of voting between mid-term election voting in 2014 and 2018, and

according to Pew Research Center, Millennials, Gen Z and Gen Xers cast more votes in the 2016 presidential election.

"This demonstrates the power of younger voters. They are the driving force behind what will happen on Nov. 3 and what the future holds for our country," said QCC Associate Vice President for External Affairs, Viviana Abreu-Hernandez, adding, "I encourage everyone to make sure they register to vote and vote early."

People may visit www.QCC.edu/vote to get more information on how and where to vote.

For more information on QCC, contact Josh Martin, director of institutional communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

WPI offers free online math learning tool

WORCESTER – ASSISTments, a free online math teaching tool developed at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, has given teachers the confidence to transition seamlessly between online and in-person classes amidst the uncertainty of instructional environments mid-COVID-19. This flexibility resulted in massive growth during the shift to distance learning this spring, and in big strategic for the ASSISTments team in order to best support teachers and students in all learning environments as they go back to school this fall.

Developed by husband-and-wife team computer science professor Neil Heffernan and Cristina Heffernan, the free tool allows teachers to assign math problem sets online to their classes, giving students instant feedback as they complete assignments and providing teachers with actionable data to inform instruction. Teachers across the U.S. are using the tool to continue high quality instruction with their classes whether their students are in the classroom or at home.

Since the shift to distance learning began in March more than 25,000 teacher from all 50 states and internationally have signed up for ASSISTments accounts. The tool is primarily used by middle school math teachers and students, but has seen growing usage across all grade-levels due to its library of common grades 1-12 curricula that are already part of many teachers' existing classroom practices.

"It seemed clear that teachers would need some extra help to make

it through school closures," says Heffernan. "We built ASSISTments more than fifteen years ago as a simple platform to help teachers deliver feedback to their students, and are so proud of its recent growth into new classrooms across the country." Given concerns about learning loss and resource deprivation in many communities across the U.S., ASSISTments - a free tool - has the power to make an even greater impact and support differentiation. An independent study conducted by SRI International and funded by the Institute for Education Sciences found that ASSISTments contributed to lowering the achievement gap.

In direct response to the new needs of teacher users, the WPI team has revamped its website and developed resources to help teachers and students adjust to new learning environments and connect with fellow teachers around common problems of practice. The team developed distance learning resources in their Help Center, hosts weekly webinars for new and experienced ASSISTments users and partnered with curriculum publishers OpenUpResources and Kendall Hunt to hold joint webinars. In addition to its live virtual programming, the team has developed tutorials and video resources that can be accessed by teachers or students at any time on their YouTube channel or in their Webinar Library. The new Teacher Corner on the ASSISTments website promotes teacher-to-teacher sharing of best practices and classroom artifacts.

Teachers like ASSISTments

Ambassador Palmina Griffin of Southborough have been using the tool to stay connected to students during school closures. Griffin has made ASSISTments an integral part of her lesson planning, assigning problem sets that connect to her unit review packets and daily assignments. She encourages her students to do their work with paper and pencil and then enter their answers into ASSISTments to receive quick feedback.

ASSISTments is one of the many tools in Griffin's toolbox, and she often uses ASSISTments in conjunction with other online resources and communication platforms. "Students appreciate knowing if they are on track or if they may need additional support to understand the content they are exploring remotely," she says. "I often get an immediate email from a student that they need assistance or understand their misconception in a problem set," she says.

Heffernan anticipates the continued growth of the ASSISTments project at WPI, especially due to the recent launch of its integration with the Canvas Learning Management System and new features currently in development. Teachers will be able to connect ASSISTments into Canvas, streamlining their homework assignment and scoring process. ASSISTments's integrations with Google Classroom and Canvas, two of the most widely used learning management systems, will allow ASSISTments to impact the classrooms of many new teachers and students across the US.

Fitchburg State to hold virtual open house

FITCHBURG – People can learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State University when its School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education hosts a virtual open house at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

Fitchburg State's high quality, affordable graduate programs are available in part-time, full-time, online, evening or accelerated formats, so people can gain the skills they need to unlock their potential and realize their

career goals. The free session will cover the admissions process, digital learning opportunities and other unique details that make Fitchburg State such a great place to continue an education.

The School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State offers more than 45 graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Please may visit <https://admissions.fitchburgstate.edu/register/GradFall2020> to learn more.

HCC fall session II classes start Sept. 28

HOLYOKE – For those who missed the traditional early September starting date for fall classes or may have needed more time to decide, Holyoke Community College has a second session of full-credit classes beginning Monday, Sept. 28.

HCC introduced two "Flexible Fall" start dates this year to accommodate people as they adjust to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic: Monday, Sept. 28 and Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Sept. 28 start classes run for 12 weeks. Oct. 28 start classes run for seven. All fall courses will conclude by Dec. 16, 2020.

The accelerated "Flexible Fall" courses are being offered in accounting, anthropology, biology, business administration, career readiness, communication, educa-

tion, economics, English, health, math, psychology, sociology and sustainability.

All HCC classes this fall are being offered in one of three formats: online, blended remote, and blended face-to-face.

Online courses follow a traditional, asynchronous online model with coursework deadlines established by instructors.

Blended remote courses have both asynchronous online components combined with real-time class meetings via video conference platforms such as Zoom.

Blended face-to-face combines blended remote with some in-person instruction on campus.

For more information or to enroll, people may visit hcc.edu/fall, call 413-552-2321 or send an email to admissions@hcc.edu.

HCC extends free COVID-19 testing

HOLYOKE – Free COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Sept. 30.

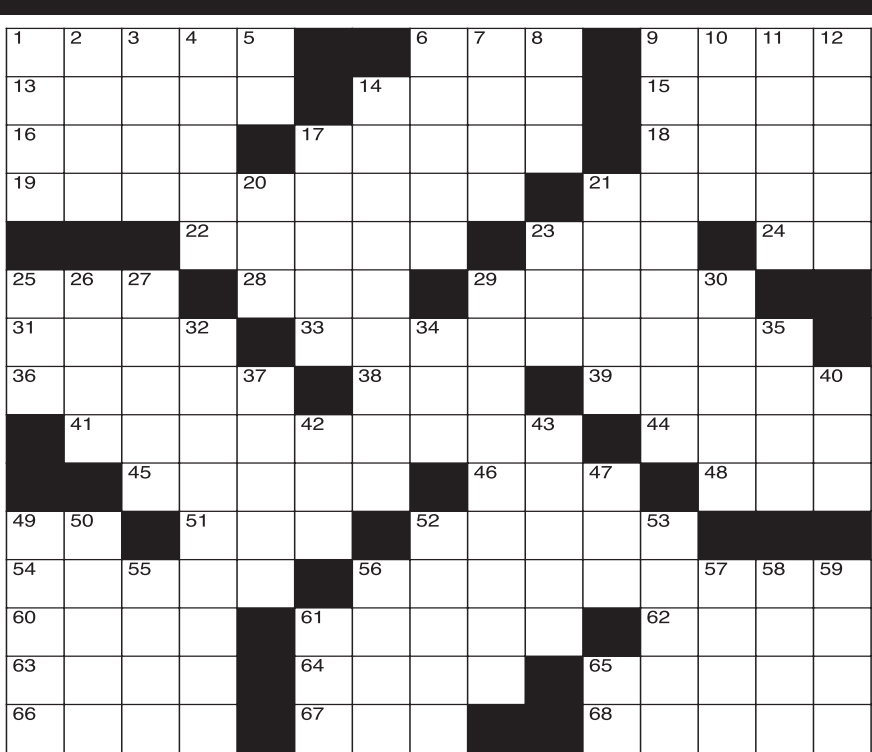
HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19. Testing was initially set to end on Sept. 12 and then extended through Sept. 30. It has been now been extended through the end of October.

Tests are being conducted outside HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing is available six days a week through the end of October during the following hours:

Monday 7 to 11 a.m., Tuesday 2-7 p.m., Wednesday 7 to 11 a.m., Thursday 2-7 p.m., Friday 7 to 11 a.m. and Saturday 7 to 11 a.m.

Testing are conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required. People should enter the campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot, adjacent the Bartley Center, where in-car tests are being administered. Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.



CLUES ACROSS

- Emaciation
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
- Anatomical term
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- Jewish calendar month
- Round Dutch cheese
- Western Pacific republic
- List of foods
- It can strike the ground
- Drenches
- Some are cole
- ___ Squad
- Expresses emotion
- One point east of due south
- Satisfaction
- Holds nothing back
- Top of the body
- Not well-liked

- Did slowly
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Gland secretion
- Vital to existence
- Aristocratic young women
- Erik ___, composer
- Not young
- Jewish term for "Sir"
- Secondary school
- ___ student: learns to heal
- Regarding
- Highly excited
- Mainly
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- Cakes
- Biomedical nonprofit
- Dried-up indigenous people
- One who is symbolic of something
- Body part
- Muslim ruler
- Women from

CLUES DOWN

- Not us
- Helper
- Bleat
- Type of chair
- Jr.'s father
- Necessary for certain beverages
- Hillside
- Dutch painter Gerrit ___
- Gave a new look
- Ancient Greek City
- Confidence trick
- Type of fund
- From an Asian island
- Malay boat
- Western Australia
- Indigenous people
- Cluster on underside of fern frond
- You need it to get somewhere
- The woman

- It may be green
- Makes less severe
- One from Beantown
- Cavalry sword
- Metric linear unit
- Hawaiian dish
- Yokel
- Dissuade
- Mutual savings bank
- ___ Caesar, comedian
- Primordial matters
- We all have it
- Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha"
- Historic MA coastal city
- Shady garden alcove
- Small amount
- Horse-drawn cart
- Nocturnal rodent
- Spiritual leader
- Air mattress
- Speaks incessantly
- Auction term
- Atomic #62

WORLD SERIES, continued from page 7

Small Block Super Modified cars must follow Oswego Speedway and Star Speedway rules including the engine rules. Teams will have a two different tire options. They can run Hoosier 10-inch 1057 tires on three corners with the Hoosier 1060 on the right rear or American Racer EC-83 tires on three corners with the American Racer EC-84 on the right rear.

Teams that choose the Hoosier option must buy tires at the track from Hoosier Tire East. For the American Racer option, teams can register up to six tires at \$25 each. Four of the six registered

tires must be on the car at the feature's conclusion.

The full payouts and other information that has been announced for all World Series open events can be found at www.thompsonspeedway.com, www.actour.com/thompson-speedway (link is external), or www.proallstarseries.com (link is external). Entry forms for the Tour-Type Modified Open and 350 Super Modified Open are also available on these websites.

A 25-lap open event for 8-cylinder Street Stocks is also slated for the first day of the World Series on Friday, October 9. The rules and payout for this event are expected to be released by the end of the week.

RACING, continued from page 7

Championship Night event 36 points ahead of Davis, who, still mathematically alive in the title hunt, is the only 2019 champion capable of repeating that success.

Monadnock Speedway will conclude its pandemic-abbreviated 2020 racing season when it hosts its annual Championship Night races – with four divisional crowns still undecided, and many extras scheduled - next Saturday, September 26. Post

time for that event is 2 p.m. **MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY SEPTEMBER 19 RESULTS:**

Pure Stocks - CJ Johnson, Chris Davis, Mike Douglas, Dylan Adams, Jimmy Zellman, Cory Lofland, JD Stockwell, Nick Houle, Jake Bosse, Jason Leray, Tucker Houle, Ryan Lawliss, Matt Lambert, Trevor Carey, Brandon Lavoie

Late Model Sportsman - Robert Hagar, Camdyn Curtis, Justin Littlewood, John Meany, James Beck, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Chris Balls, Cole Littlewood,

Dan Comeau, Ronald Laperche, Aaron Fellows, Tyler Lescord (DNS)

Mini Stocks - Emerson Cayer, Louie Maher, Nathan Wenzel, Kevin Cormier, Gordon Farnum, Pat Houle, Jeff Asselin,

Tim Leblanc, Bill Chaffee, Jake Puchalski, Kevin McKnight, Ray King, Dan Sweeney, Kevin Clayton, Matt Sonnhalter, David Thibodeau (DNS)

Mini Stock Battle for the Belt Champion - Gordon Farnum

Street Stocks - Chris

Buffone, Tommy O'Sullivan, Dave Greenslit, Mike Radzuik, Chase Curtis, Jaret Curtis, Hillary Renaud, Ed Brehio III, Robbie Streeter, Tim Wenzel, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard (DNS)

NHSTRA Modifieds - Trevor Bleau, Ben Byrne, Brian Robie, Cameron Houle, Brian Chapin, Russ Hersey, Todd Patnode, Matt Kimball, Kim Rivet, Scott MacMichael, Solomon Brow, Andy Major, Eric Leclair, Kevin Pittsinger, Jason Houle, Brad Zahensky, Cory Plummer

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BIKE RACE
continued from page 1

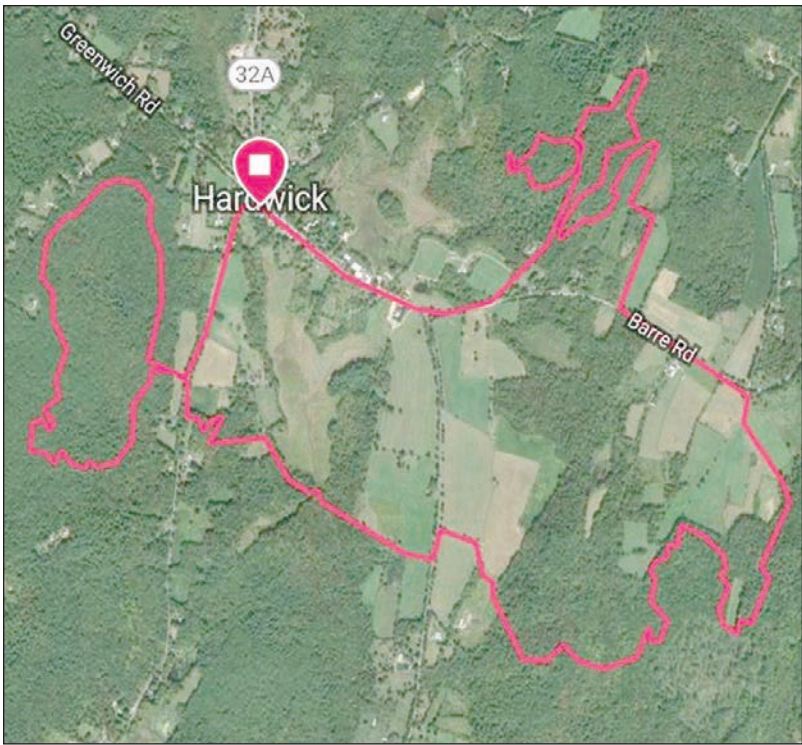
first time the Hardwick Community Fair was not held on the Hardwick Common because of a viral pandemic. The Hardwick Fair board opted to shift some of the events to an online or virtual, format.

One of these virtual events was the Mountain Bike Race. A relative newcomer to the fair, this year was the 13th annual race. The over 10-mile race was founded by Neil Dawson and Rick Romano, who have since handed the leadership role over to Hardwick resident, Brian White. Both Dawson and Romano have been involved in the sport for many years, while White has only discovered his passion for it since 2015.

Mountain biking as a sport hit a peak in popularity in the 1990s, but has been seeing a steady increase in participants in recent years, and this has proven true at the Hardwick event. White said, “With the introduction of social media outlets, apps, and word of mouth, we’ve seen a marked increase in the growth of competitors at the event. The local mountain bike scene is very strong with many talented riders. It’s not uncommon to see people you’ve never met before on the trails. Mountain biking as a sport and form of recreation has skyrocketed over the past 3 or 4 years.”

Many people have turned to mountain biking for the health benefits, including stress relief, cardiovascular health and more. Mountain biking is not only great exercise, but many of the local trails provide a thrill not found riding on the road. For those concerned about preserving the natural world around us, it is also an eco-friendly sport, with very little impact on the environment when established trail systems are used. For those looking to try mountain biking for the first time, White recommends starting easy on a smooth surface, like the road or Rail Trail, to become comfortable with your bike. He said, “As you progress, look to the trails in your area. Often, trails can be described in a similar fashion to skiing. Green the easiest, blue intermediate, black more challenging. Work your way up in miles and terrain as your skills develop.” People should always make sure to wear a helmet and that their bike is in good condition.

Hardwick has trails suitable for mountain bikers of all experience levels – ranging from the flat, hard-packed Mass. Central Rail Trail, to the more challenging course of the Mountain Bike Race. The East Quabbin Land Trust (EQLT) is responsible for overseeing numerous preserves in



Turley Publications Photo Courtesy of Brian White

This map shows the Mountain Bike Race course that encompasses the Hardwick Common.

Hardwick – Mandell Hill, Patrill Hollow, Deer Park, Moose Brook, to name a few, in addition to the Mass. Central Rail Trail that spans from Wheelwright into Gilbertville. White credits EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw, EQLT volunteers and private landowners who allow use of their property, with helping to keep the trails safe for riding. Between White, Dawson, Romano and EQLT, many hours go into cleaning, marking, and ensuring the course is safe and ready. Volunteers have been especially hard at work to keep trails clear with the series of high-wind storms that hit the area in August. After Tropical Storm Isaias, White estimated that they removed 15 trees alone, just from the Patrill Hollow Preserve.

One of the challenges of running a virtual race is designing a course that is competitive and challenging to participants, but still safe for bikers to utilize at any time during the virtual race timeframe. Traditionally, when the race is held during the Hardwick Community Fair weekend, local police provide safe passage along the often busy roadways, and many volunteers are on hand. The race would start on the Common, head up toward Simpson Road, and travel clockwise through the EQLT properties before finishing on a private landowner’s property. For the virtual race, they tried to eliminate as many of the road sections as they could.

Describing the race, White says, “The course travels in a mostly clockwise direction navigating the many EQLT properties surrounding Hardwick Center. The trails themselves are multi-use...open

to hikers, bikers, bird watchers, and other outdoor non-motorized recreational hobbies. We’ve seen a dramatic increase in all types of trail traffic since the pandemic hit. Although the trails are free of any dangerous features, they’re still quite challenging due to the rocky, rooty nature of the environment. We’ve also heard that some believe this is one of the more scenic networks in the area. From the meadow views of Mount Wachusett from Mandell Hill to the Hemlock Grove in Patrill Hollow, people are constantly reminded how beautiful the properties are... and that we’re lucky to have an organization like the EQLT to preserve the natural beauty.”

The Mountain Bike Race course has changed a lot over the years, and this year it was able to use nearly the entire trail network. Participants in the race have ranged from age 10, up into 70’s. The top finishers that participated in this year’s virtual race and logged their times using the Strava app were: Steve Salvatore of Barre, first; Jamie Thompson of Barre, second; and Dave Noel of Hardwick, third.

White, Dawson and Romano and look forward to planning the race at next year’s Hardwick Community Fair. As one thing lacking from this year’s virtual race was the excitement of being amongst friends, family and fairgoers. White said, “Many riders who participate in the race events are really there just for the ride and to meet and mingle with other riders.”

For people looking to venture into the sport of mountain biking, all abilities and ages are welcome at the 14th Annual Mountain Bike Race set for 2021.

strong work ethic and he worked at the diner since he was 10. According to Nurek, it was finally the right time to retire. “Why not? I watched my parents work until they could not work anymore,” he said. While Nurek will miss the people, especially his regulars and his longtime staff, he is looking forward to relaxing and focusing on his photography. “We’re just tired. I’ve been getting up at the crack of dawn long enough,” he joked.

This family-owned business just went on the market and features The Whistle Stop diner and the adjoining Freight House. Nurek said back in the day, the Freight House had pool tables, pinball machines and a jukebox that made it a popular hangout for all the local youths.

His hope is the next owner appreciates the building’s historical significance and its unique train theme. Ideally, the next buyers would “keep it the way that it is,” but he said he could also see the

building being used for many different purposes, such as a brewery. “This is real Americana, to change this would be a sin. It’s like you are walking back in time,” O’Keefe said.

Regardless of what business goes into The Whistle Stop, Nurek would like to see it be a small business with a community feel instead of being torn down for a huge corporation. O’Keefe added, “A lot can be done here. It’s time for a new generation to take over.”

Time passes and things change, but one aspect will always remain the same: the memories and friendships generations of people have made at The Whistle Stop. No matter what happens to the building, the legacy of The Whistle Stop has made a long and lasting impact on the community.

Nurek said it best. “If these four walls could talk, they would have one hell of a story to tell,” he said.

It will be interesting to see the next stop of The Whistle Stop.

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

What Are You Saying?

Proverbs 18:21a (ESV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . .

My father and I were quite close. He passed away nearly two years ago and not a day goes by where I do not think about or miss him. I recall asking him the following question toward the end of his life: “Dad, do you have any regrets?” His response surprised me.

With a reflective look, he recounted a story from his youth. He noted that when he was in high school, he qualified to take an advanced placement course in history. Excitedly, he reported this good news to his own father, hoping that he would be praised for this academic achievement and opportunity. Instead, he was met with the following statement: “Son, it’s time you face facts and realize that you are a dummy like your brothers and me. You should not take that class.”

My dad concluded his remembrance with the following summation: “Son, I regret that my father shared those words. I also regret that I believed them. I didn’t take that class and for years I believed myself to be a dummy. To this day I can only wonder at what my life would have been if my father and I responded differently.”

This short story vividly illustrates the principle posited in Proverbs 18:21 (noted above). Namely, the words that we speak have the capacity to positively or negatively impact the individuals that comprise our world. Therefore, we are under obligation to choose our words carefully before God and among men. What if my grandfather spoke encouragingly to my father those many years ago? Sadly, we will never know. What we do know is that his remarks proved toxic, rippling through the decades.

Perhaps it is time to inventory the words that come forth from our mouths. Perhaps it is time to note that Scripture places an incredible emphasis upon our patterns of speech. I believe, therefore, that it would be beneficial to consider a small sampling of biblical texts that address our words. Take note of the following passages and the brief remarks that I shall make in kind...

1) James 3:5–6, 9–10

James 3:5–6, 9–10

5 . . . the tongue is a small part

of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. . . . 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Isn’t it amazing how something so small can be so impacting! Our tongues are tiny compared to the other organs of the human body, yet few possess its influence to affect the whole of our life and living (v. 6a). Ultimately, your tongue works to set your spiritual trajectory (v. 6b) and should be used only to glorify God and bless others (vs. 9–10).

2) James 1:26

James 1:26

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.

Perhaps the best indicator of our spiritual health is our speech! If you claim allegiance to Christ and profess His lordship yet take no responsibility for the nature and impact of your words, your religion is futile. This may sound harsh, but this is precisely what the Bible declares to be true. Heed the wisdom thereof, recognizing that “all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

3) Matthew 12:33–37

Matthew 12:33–37

33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

I want to stress the remarks of Christ in verse 36: “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.” Consider that

the ear of the Lord is always attentive, and that what we say can and will be used against us in heavenly courts if we are not careful. There is nothing “hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Heb. 4:13). So, watch your words! Also, avail yourself of His mercy for past failures in this arena as needed:

Isaiah 1:18

18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

4) Ephesians 4:29

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

What kind of words should we speak? Those that are gracious and encouraging. Those that are beneficial and life-giving to the hearer. Such speech honors the Lord and serves to bless those around you. May the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart be acceptable in His eyes (Psalm 19:14).

Before I bring this message to a close, allow me to offer one final bit of wisdom. The following acronym has helped me tremendously over the years. It is both simple and easy-to-remember. Next time you are tempted to open your mouth, THINK about what you intend to say...

T – Is what you are planning to say TRUE?

H – Is what you are planning to say HELPFUL?

I – Is what you are purposing to say INSPIRING?

N – Is what you are purposing to say NECESSARY?

K – Is what you are planning to say KIND?

If your intended remarks do not meet these criteria, it is best to say nothing at all.

“I have often regretted my speech, but never my silence” – Publilius Syrus (Latin writer).

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30am (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon!

Pastor James Foley

*New Life Assembly of God
South Barre*

St. Mary’s Women’s Club cancels fall parish fair

ORANGE – St. Mary’s Women’s Club decided to cancel its Annual Fall Parish Fair. The group hopes to hold at least parts of the fair, in the spring. Most likely the chili, beans, beef stew and pies will be offered as take out and the raffles for cash and scratch tickets, restaurant gift certificates,

etc. will be held in the spring.

Club members will be soliciting gift certificates after the New Year for the restaurant raffle, and members will be selling raffle tickets in early spring. The date for the fair and drawings will be set in the early spring.

Members are reminded to get

their dues to Pam Bouthillier, Kathy Schiappa or Mary Carey as soon as possible, since both the spring banquet and fall mystery ride and organizational meetings were cancelled. Officers will remain in place for this club year. Members should check the Women’s Club Facebook page for updates.

Congregational church offers drive-thru roast beef dinner

BARRE — The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., would like to thank the Barre community and beyond for their support of their first ever drive-thru dinner recently. They served 88 people and their goal is a 100 dinners the next dinner.

This is a great way to support the church. The church would especially like to recognize the help of Eileen Bohigian, Lisa, Ward and Logan Holloway, Sam Isgro, Paul Murphy, Ben Seitz and MaryAnn, Beth Richard and Jean Walsh as well as the Church Committee.

Their next drive-thru dinner will feature roast beef and will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10. Meals can be picked up from 5-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 adults and \$5 children. RSVP is required by contacting Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Sept. 13
10:26 a.m. Suspicious Activity
Granger Road – Officer Spoke to Party
4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident
Pleasant Street – Vehicle Towed

Monday, Sept. 14
9:38 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency
James Street – Transported to Hospital
3:11 p.m. Fraud School Street
North – Officer Advised

Tuesday, Sept. 15
3:24 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency
South Street – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Sept. 16
11:49 a.m. Property Damage Main
Street – Officer Spoke to Party

12:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Pursuit
High Street South – Returned to Family/Guardian
3:21 p.m. Harassment Elm Street
South – Officer Advised

Thursday, Sept. 17
4:51 p.m. Recreational Vehicle
Complaint South Barre Field – Negative Contact
6:02 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency
Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Sept. 18
9:08 a.m. Vandalism South Barre
Road – Investigated
11:06 a.m. Serve Warrant South
Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Brendon P. Toohil, 40, Barre
Warrant

6:52 p.m. Disturbance, Person(s)
Williamsville Road – Officer Spoke to Party
9:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South
Barre Road – Citation Issued
11:01 p.m. Disturbance, Noise
Complaint Britton Road West – Negative Contact
1:36 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency
Summer Street – Transported to Hospital
1:59 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency
Varney Lane – Referred to Other Agency
3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident
Pedestrian/Bicyclist Fir Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:05 p.m. Recreational Vehicle
Complaint Oakham Road – Officer Advised

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Sept. 13
7:33 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergence
Streeter Road – Report Filed

Monday, Sept. 14
10:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main
Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Todd S. Rusch, 50,
Templeton
Motor Vehicle, Larceny of

Tuesday, Sept. 15
3:41 p.m. Recreational Vehicle
Complaint Old Westminster Road – Verbal Warning

Wednesday, Sept. 16
5:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Gardner Road – Citation Issued
6:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Gardner Road – Citation Issued

Thursday, Sept. 17
5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Burnshirt Road – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Alisha T. Gallant, 42,
Leominster
Uninsured Motor Vehicle;
Registration Revoked, Operate Motor
Vehicle With

7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Gardner Road – Citation Issued
9:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre
Road – Citation Issued

Saturday, Sept. 19
10:27 a.m. Fire, Medical
Emergency Gardner Road – Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Sept. 20
12:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Gardner Road – Vehicle Towed

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Sept. 13
10:05 a.m. Fire, Medical
Emergency Main Street - Transported to Hospital
11:39 a.m. Assault Miles Road - Services Rendered
1:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road - Criminal Complaint
Summons: Frederick M. Karp, 37, Newton
Unregistered Motor Vehicle; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
1:38 p.m. Gunshots Campbell Street - Negative Contact
2:22 p.m. Suspicious Person Glenwood Road - Officer Spoke to Party
5:46 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Maple Spring Drive - Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:37 p.m. Suspicious Activity Fisherman's Way - No Action Required
7:51 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Miles Road - No Transport Required

Monday, Sept. 14
1:49 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Main Street - Transported to Hospital
3:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road - Citation Issued
4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road - Vehicle Towed
Summons: Daniel H. Quiroa-Ramirez, 39, Worcester
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road - Criminal Complaint
Summons: Steven Solano, 37, Worcester
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle

Tuesday, Sept. 15
8:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre

Paxton Road - Written Warning
9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Vehicle Towed
Summons: Michael P. Mitchell, 28, West Warren
Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Uninsured Motor Vehicle
2:53 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Miles Road - Public Assist
5:20 p.m. Fraud Maple Avenue - Officer Took Call

Wednesday, Sept. 16
8:41 a.m. Littering/Trash/Dumping Main Street - Services Rendered
3:51 p.m. Fraud Michael Drive - Report Filed

Thursday, Sept. 17
3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Citation Issued
3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road - Citation Issued
4:05 p.m. Fraud Ridge Road - Officer Spoke to Party
4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road - Written Warning
4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road - Citation Issued
4:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Written Warning
5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Citation Issued
Summons: Thomas Holdom, 45, Rutland
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Mobile Phone, Operator Use Improperly
Summons: Kristin L. David, 40, Rutland
Unlicensed/Suspended Operation of Motor Vehicle, Permit
5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Citation Issued
6:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Written Warning
7 p.m. Trespassing Wachusett

Street - Investigated

Friday, Sept. 18
1:12 p.m. Fraud Michael Drive - Report Filed
1:31 p.m. Suspicious Activity Maple Avenue - Report Filed
4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Written Warning
5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Citation Issued
5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Written Warning
6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Written Warning
6:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road - Citation Issued
6:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road - Written Warning
6:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road - Prisoner Bailed
Arrest: Emmanuel Abrokwah, 66, Worcester
Identify Self, Motor Vehicle Operator Refuse; Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation
Summons: Linda Aparibo, 40, Worcester
Unlicensed/Suspended Operation of Motor Vehicle, Permit
Summons: Aikins Appiah, 43, Worcester
License, Allow Another to Use

Saturday, Sept. 19
8:29 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Carlsons Way - Transported to Hospital
10:40 a.m. Fraud Horizon Road - Officer Spoke to Party
4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue - Citation Issued
4:57 p.m. Animal, Bite Edson Avenue - Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street - Citation Issued

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Sept. 13
5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North
Brookfield Road – Citation Issued

Monday, Sept. 14
10:39 a.m. Recreational Vehicle
Complaint Spencer Road – Gone On Arrival
11:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre
Road – Citation Issued

Tuesday, Sept. 15
5:20 pm. Illegal Dumping Coldbrook
Road – Report Filed

Wednesday, Sept. 16
9:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued

Thursday, Sept. 17
6:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North

Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
8:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic Old
Turnpike Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Angel M. Bourgeois, 24,
Hubbardston
OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense;
Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open
Container of

New Braintree Police Log

For the week of Sept. 14-21, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 19 building/property checks, 7 radar assignments, 10 motor vehicle stops, 26 directed/area patrols, 3 traffic controls, 1 emergency 911 call, 2 animal calls, 1 citizen assist, 2 assist other agencies and 1 safety hazard in the town of New Braintree.

8:41 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued
11:26 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Barre Road – Written Warning

Wednesday, Sept. 16
11:35 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard
Moore Road – Services Rendered

Saturday, Sept. 19
8:22 a.m. Phone – Serve Warrant
Barr Road – Arrest(s) Made
9:16 a.m. Initiated – Serve Warrant

Barr Road – Services Rendered
4:39 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Hardwick Road – Written Warning

Sunday, Sept. 20
11:49 a.m. Phone – Medical
Emergency Davis Road – Services
Rendered
1:09 p.m. 911 – Welfare Check
Davis Road – Officer Handled
5:06 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop West Brookfield Road – Citation
Issued

Hardwick Police Log

For the week of Sept. 14-21, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 68 building/property checks, 8 radar assignments, 17 motor vehicle stops, 11 directed/area patrols, 6 traffic controls, 3 animal calls, 6 emergency 911 calls, 7 citizen assists, 2 complaints, 1 vandalism and 1 scam in the town of Hardwick.

9:45 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Turkey
Street – Services Rendered

Tuesday, Sept. 15
7 a.m. Initiated – Building/Property
Check Lower Road- Arrest(s) Made
6:09 p.m. Phone – Vandalism Main
Street – Investigated

Wednesday, Sept. 16
7:18 p.m. Phone – Complaint
Mechanic Street – Unknown Outcome

Friday, Sept. 18
11:02 p.m. 911 – Complaint Pine
Street – Unfounded

Saturday, Sept. 19
12:45 a.m. Phone – Medical

Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
2:41 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency
Patrill Hollow Road – Transported to Hospital
12:19 p.m. 911 – Lockout School
House Drive – Call Cancelled
1:23 p.m. 911 – Misdiad Joslyn Road – Checked/Secured
3:42 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Written Warning
4:13 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Sunday, Sept. 20
4:35 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
6:28 p.m. 911 – Disturbance
Hardwick Road – Peace Restored

Big E to hold food to go drive thru

SPRINGFIELD – Authentic Big E food favorites will again be made available to fair fans from throughout the region at The Big E Food-To-Go Drive Thru, sponsored by Westfield Bank, Sept. 22-27; Sept. 29-Oct. 4; Oct. 6-11; Oct. 13-18. Hours of operation are: Tuesday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

After social media comments and suggestions to bring back this opportunity, ESE created a more “user friendly” drive thru that includes tickets and timed entry reservations. All vendors are the same folks our fair patrons return each year to see and count on to provide top quality, innovative, fun, authentic fair foods they developed specifically for The Big E. Each week, Tuesday through Sunday, the Drive Thru will feature three different vendors who will bring their iconic Big E foods to the grounds.

There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee and reservations for a specific time slot must be made online in advance. Guests may secure as many time slots as they wish per week at \$5 per

vehicle reservation. Food purchases are not included in the vehicle entry fee. During the week of Sept. 22-27, a special offer will be made available to purchase discounted tickets to the 2021 Big E. Each week will bring a different special offer and will be announced on social media.

The time slot process will reduce traffic and provide shorter wait times for guests. The safety of patrons is of the utmost importance and local and state COVID-19 guidelines are being strictly enforced for visitors, employees and vendors while on the grounds.

“We were overwhelmed with the support we received during our first food drive thru. It’s clear The Big E will be missed, and this is our way of creating a safe, socially distant opportunity to present the genuine foods people have come to know and love, and continue to create memories for our guests,” ESE President and CEO, Gene Cassidy, said. “This is the real thing.”

A maximum of fifty cars per hour within two-hour time slots will be registered each day. All time slot selections are final and are as follows: Tuesday to Thursday: 11a.m.

to 1 p.m., 1-3 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Fridays: 10 a.m. to noon, noon-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m, 4-6 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays: 9 to 11 a.m., 11a.m. to 1 p.m., 1-3 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Guests may arrive any time during their time slot, but no more than 30 minutes before their reservation.

The Drive Thru is open to standard passenger vehicles only. Pedestrians, bikes, motorcycles, buses, RVs, limousines, commercial passenger vans, oversized vehicles and trailers are not permitted.

All vehicles will follow a one-way route through the fairgrounds passing by each vendor. A bypass lane is available along the route. Restrooms will not be open. There will be limited public portable toilets available.

Guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles at all times and wear face masks or coverings when ordering and accepting food. Vendors will work quickly to take orders, process cash and credit card payments and deliver food to the vehicles. More information and tickets are available at www.TheBigE.com

Big E launches virtual marketplace for vendors

Eastern States Exposition has launched The Big E Marketplace – a webpage that helps connect its fairgoers to their favorite vendors where they can shop for the goods and services that make the Fair experience unique and exciting. The Marketplace launched Sept. 18; what would have been Opening Day of the 2020 Big E and will operate until Dec. 31, 2020.

Fairgoers will access The Marketplace by visiting www.TheBigE.com and clicking on the icon that will open the “door” to their favorite vendors. Participating businesses are listed by location – Better Living Center, Craft

Common, Outdoor Exhibitors, State Buildings, Young Building and Ireland’s Dingle Peninsula Showcase. Vendors who opted to be part of our Marketplace are included.

The Marketplace is this year’s home away from home for more than 120 of Big E vendors. As an example, customers who are hoping to find their favorite steam mop, Western gear or soy candle can click on the Better Living Center. Those who are searching for the perfect gift for a friend or family member can access participating Crafters where they’ll find hand blown glass, homemade ornaments, mittens and more.

Take a virtual trip across the pond to Ireland through the Marketplace where you can visit all your favorite companies that comprise The Big E’s Ireland Dingle Peninsula Showcase.

When a customer clicks on a desired location, it will bring them to the Exposition’s list showing all the participating vendors that are in that location as well as a link to their website, product description and social media pages. If a business does not have a website or social media page, contact information is provided.

For more information, people may visit www.TheBigE.com.

Bay State celebrates bike month

REGION – All over the state through September 2020 MassBike is proud to present Bay State Bike Month. Whether people are looking to join one of dozens of events statewide, or host their own event, Bay State Bike Month has something for everyone. They aim to bring out new riders and raise awareness about bicycling for transportation, fitness, and fun.

Take it from Bike Month riders who have posted on our #WhyIRide testimonial page, biking can be used “to find a new way, to find a new destination, or to find some peace in my own mind,” to “hear, see and smell the world around me” and offer “freedom from the confines

of my block or my apartment.” And riders who follow our social media pages will be able to participate in various challenges throughout the month, like riding to a park, visiting a local business, or inviting their legislators and local elected officials out on a ride.

MassBike is teaming up with MassCommute to bring statewide bicycle programming and challenges including the MassCommute Bicycle Challenge (MCBC), Sept. 19-27, with prizes for teams and individuals who ride the most trips, the most miles, and more. Join the week-long Bicycle Challenge by logging your bike trips and miles. They are encouraging riders of all

types to track all their bicycle rides, whether for fun, fitness, errands, commuting, or whatever reason to get out on two-wheels.

People may visit <https://www.baystatebikemonth.org/> for more information about Bike Month, to see what events are happening near them and virtually across the state, add their own event, and join their Bicycle Challenge to log miles for prizes.

For more information please may visit their website or contact Ben at ben@massbike.org. People can also follow them on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram with @MassBike. They will post challenges and updates on these platforms.

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NEWS & FEATURES


As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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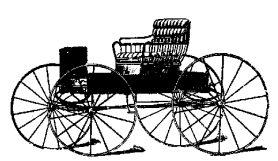
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ARBORIST POSTION OPEN! In search of an employee with tree work experience. Must have a drivers license, good work ethic and positive attitude. Pay based on experience, work ethic and qualifications. Individual would be working in a positive work environment and with top of the line equipment. Required to have climbing/ bucket truck experience. Please call **(413) 478-4212**

PER DIEM EMPLOYMENT Warren Parks and Rec Department is accepting applications for per diem employment to perform duties to appropriately maintain town properties (including but not limited to seasonal tasks, grounds keeping, maintenance, painting and tasks assigned by the commissioners.) Applications available at www.warren-ma.gov. Mail application to Warren Parks and Recreation, PO BOX 609, Warren, MA 01083. Deadline is 10/15/2020. The Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TOWN OF PALMER - CLERK III - BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICE
The Town of Palmer seeks a qualified candidate for the Board of Health's Office. Recommended qualifications: Knowledge of legal controls, methods and procedures of municipal finance. Working knowledge of town operations, office equipment and operation of computer software (Munis experience preferred.) Ability to communicate effectively and efficiently, verbally and in writing, to work effectively under time constraints to meet deadlines. Maintain effective working relationships with the general public, banking institutions, real estate professionals, lawyers and other town employees. Receive and reconcile tax collections and prepare bank deposits. Deposit checks via remote deposit. Performs related duties and responsibilities as required. Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills, aptitude for numbers and details, excellent organizational, planning and analytical skills. Ability to be bonded. For full job description please go to www.townofpalmer.com/employmentopportunities FT, 32.5 benefitted, union position with a starting hourly rate of \$18.40 per hour.
Send resume to: Ryan McNutt, Town Manager, 4417 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069 or rmcnutt@townofpalmer.com

WATER/SEWER OPERATOR The town of Monson is seeking a full-time Water/Sewer Operator to provide technical work to operate and maintain the water and sewer systems. License requirements include Massachusetts CDL Class B Driver's, Hoisting 2A, D-2 and T-1 Certified Operator of Drinking Water Facilities. 10 days paid vacation after 90 days continuous employment, salary min \$22.60 max \$28.23
Contact the Monson Water & Sewer Dept. at tel. (413) 267-4130, fax (413) 267-4106, or e-mail monsonwvs@monson-ma.gov. Completed applications must be received at the Monson Water & Sewer Department, 198WD Main Street, P.O. Box 388, Monson, MA 01057 before 3:30 p.m. October 9, 2020
This Institution is an equal opportunity employer.

HELP WANTED

Kitchen Utility Workers Needed

Eagle Hill School, a private boarding school for high school students, is seeking full and part time kitchen staff to primarily assist in cleanup and serving. Staff will ensure the cleanliness and sanitization of dishes, tableware, glassware, pots, pans, and utensils through manual and machine cleaning methods. Ability to work in a team environment, independently with minimal supervision. Must be flexible regarding scheduling, including nights, weekends, and/or holidays as needed. Successful completion of background checks is required. Physical requirements: Able to lift, push. And pull up to 30 lbs.; Able to repetitively bend, stretch, twist, etc.; Able to stand for long periods of time; Able to work in a high humidity environment. If interested, call Kathy Stone-Johnson, 413-477-6122.

TOWN OF PALMER - CLERK III - TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The Town of Palmer seeks a qualified candidate for the Tax Collector's Office. Recommended qualifications: Knowledge of legal controls, methods and procedures of municipal finance. Working knowledge of town operations, office equipment and operation of computer software (Munis experience preferred.) Ability to communicate effectively and efficiently, verbally and in writing, to work effectively under time constraints to meet deadlines. Maintain effective working relationships with the general public, banking institutions, real estate professionals, lawyers and other town employees. Receive and reconcile tax collections and prepare bank deposits. Deposit checks via remote deposit. Performs related duties and responsibilities as required. Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills, aptitude for numbers and details, excellent organizational, planning and analytical skills. Ability to be bonded. For full job description please go to www.townofpalmer.com/employmentopportunities FT, 32.5 benefitted, union position with a starting hourly rate of \$18.40 per hour.
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This Institution is an equal opportunity employer.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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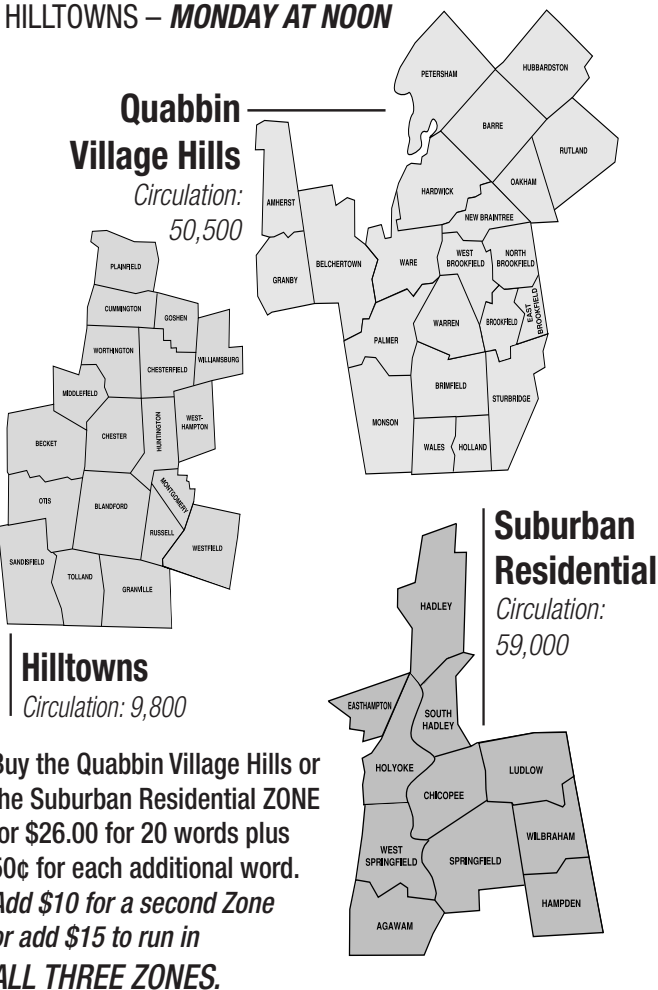
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HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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Quincy nominated for National Adoption Story Challenge



Quincy is a candidate for Clear the Shelters Adoption Story Challenge.

EAST BROOKFIELD – The local adoption story of a deaf American bull-dog mix is getting national recognition in the Clear the Shelters Adoption Story Challenge. Second Chance Animal Services is asking for the public’s vote for Quincy, a special-needs two-year-old, who was saved from euthanasia earlier this year. Quincy was brought to one of Second Chance because he was hard to handle because he was so easily startled and euthanization was being considered. Second Chance veterinary hospitals will never euthanize a pet unless they are suffering and according to the contest story, Second Chance veterinarians “took one look at his goofy smile

and happy wiggles and could not euthanize him.” He quickly became a shelter favorite. The adoption center staff worked with him daily, teaching him commands like “sit” using sign language. He spent five months at the Second Chance Adoption Center in East Brookfield until he found just the right owner, who could help him conquer his challenges. “Due to COVID, adoptions (for special needs pets) became few and far between and because of Quincy’s special needs, we feared we might never find his perfect home. Weeks dragged into months and while people seemed interested in him at first

glance, once they learned he was deaf and required special care, they turned away.” “Finally, on Aug. 27, the special adopter came to visit. He took one look at Quincy and knew this was the dog for him. A previous dog owner, he had enough experience with animals for us to feel comfortable sending Quincy home and he was willing to adjust his lifestyle to meet Quincy’s needs. Now Quincy is living in a brand-new condo and living the high life traveling with his new owner.” Quincy’s new owner reports Quincy is thriving and making many new friends at the dog park he visits each morning. The Clear the Shelter Adoption

Story Challenge continues through Sept. 30 with a grand prize of \$10,000 in cash and \$2,500 in supplies for the winning shelter. Every day, the public can show Quincy some love by casting their vote at www.shelterchallenge.com. Quincy can be found directly at <https://www.shelterchallenge.com/shelterchallenge/Contest/Match/36352?ContestantID=121111> Second Chance shared a video of Quincy at the adoption center earlier this year on Facebook: <https://business.facebook.com/secondchanceanimals/videos/256744945443631/>. Video file can be downloaded here: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!AnHADnp2JJ-MgTe8IMz7zDNyocZO>

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